

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01977 281447Z

51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 /064 W

----- 089721

R 281429Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3567

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN RESPONSE TO SENATORS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD

1. MAY 23 AL-BAATH REPORTED LETTER OF 75 SENATORS ON FRONT PAGE UNDER "URGING FORD FOR ADDITIONAL AID TO ISRAEL THROUGH REASSESSMENT OF U.S. POLICY." ARTICLE STATED THAT 75 SENATORS CONFIRMED THEIR "ABSOLUTE SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL" IN LETTER URGING PRESIDENT FORD TO CONTINUE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL TO ENABLE IT TO PRESERVE ITS STRENGTH AND DETER ARABS. ARTICLE NOTED SENATORS EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT STRONG ISRAEL CONSTITUTES GUARANTEE OF MOST SECURE BORDERS AND PREVENTS FOREIGN CONTROL OF MIDDLE EAST. SENATORS DEMANDED CONGRESSIONAL PARTICIPATION IN POLICY REASSESSMENT. AL-BAATH MADE NO COMMENT ON LETTER.

2. MAY 24 AL-BAATH FRONT-PAGED AFP DISPATCH FROM TEL AVIV REPORTING ISRAELI SATISFACTION WITH SENATORS' LETTER.

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3. MAY 27 AL-BAATH CONTAINED FIRST EDITORIAL COMMENT ON LETTER. COLUMNIST WROTE THAT SUCCESSIVE STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS OF "PUBLIC HOSTILITY TO ARAB NATION SEEM TO REPRESENT BROAD LINES OF NEW POLICY WHICH AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION PROMISED TO FOLLOW IN AREA." SENATORS' LETTER WAS "CLEAREST SUCH STATEMENT." COLUMNIST OPINED THAT LETTER AND SCHLESINGER STATEMENTS HELPED ENSURE "MORE RIGID ISRAELI POSITION VIS-A-VIS ANY EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT." HE CONCLUDED THAT "THESE STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME COULD NOT BE IN SERVICE OF PEACE BUT CONSTITUTE ADVANCE BLOW TO ANY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH JUST AND DURABLE PEACE."

4. COMMENT: SYRIAN PRESS HAS NOT DEVOTED AS MUCH ATTENTION TO SENATORS' LETTER AS EGYPTIANS HAVE. WE SPECULATE THIS IS BECAUSE SYRIANS ARE LESS ATTUNED TO AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESSES AND PERHAPS ALSO MORE CYNICAL CONCERNING U.S. POLICY REASSESSMENT TOWARD MIDDLE EAST. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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